

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY PRACTICE IN AUSTERE TIMES: URBAN, RURAL AND BLENDED CHALLENGES TO EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE SUSTAINABILITY

M. Reid¹, **D.M. Ragg**², **C. Mills**²

¹Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency, Detroit, ²EMU-Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Collaboration, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI, USA

Introduction: While evidence-based psychiatric practices (EBPs) are assumed to be more efficient, savings and sustainability are elusive during times of economic instability. This presentation uses two-years of penetration and cost-related data from 46 community mental health providers to document EBP penetration and sustainability during a period of serious funding contraction.

Objectives: This study sought to identify specific elements that contribute to EBP-related savings and sustainability in urban, rural and blended environments.

Aims: This study identifies critical organizational practices that sustain EBPs during difficult economic times.

Methods: Using existing claims data on the State of Michigan website, researchers used a stratified regression analysis to identify critical variables contributing to increased use of EBPs and decreased use of high-cost services. Follow-up qualitative data were collected from administrators of high and low penetration organizations to provide insight into within-agency strategies that contribute to EBP implementation and sustainability.

Results: Findings identify direct and indirect contributors to sustainability and efficiency when implementing evidence-based practices. Direct contributors include unit-cost funding and the number of EBPs implemented. Indirect contributors include organizational promotion activities that create an atmosphere of excellence. Findings vary across urban, rural and blended environments.

Conclusions: Evidence-based practices require a strong organizational commitment to remain viable during difficult financial times.